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Letter dated 14 May 2018 from the representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Peru and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We, the undersigned members of the Security Council, are writing to express our profound concern about the lack of implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), which was adopted by the Security Council on 23 December 2016.

The Council reaffirmed that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace (resolution 2334 (2016), para. 1). It also reiterated the demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and that it fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard (ibid., para. 2). In a report on the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016) presented on 18 December 2017, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, Nickolay Mladenov, reported that no such steps had been taken during the reporting period.

The Special Coordinator also reported that there was continuing violence against civilians, including terrorist attacks, during the reporting period, as well as inflammatory rhetoric and provocations, despite the fact that, in resolution 2334 (2016), the Council called upon both parties to take immediate steps to prevent all acts of violence and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric. The Special Coordinator concluded that the reporting period had not seen significant positive moves towards advancing peace. It is clear that continuing violence against civilians and incitement perpetuate mutual fear and suspicion and must be condemned, as such acts impede any efforts to bridge the gaps between Israelis and Palestinians and empower extremists.

All settlements and continued settlement construction in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, contravene resolution 2334 (2016) and undermine the establishment of a viable, contiguous Palestinian State as part of a two-State solution. The Secretary-General has been clear that ending the occupation and realizing a two-State solution, with Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and Palestine, is the only way to achieve such a vision. A political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which has lasted for too long, is needed. As the Secretary-General stated in his remarks to the Security Council on 20 February 2018, this means addressing all final status issues on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, international law and mutual agreements. As the Secretary-General stated, there is no plan B.

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As Member States of the United Nations, we must all be dedicated to implementing Security Council resolutions, as provided for in article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Security Council must stand behind its resolutions and ensure that they have meaning; otherwise, we risk undermining the credibility of the international system. In paragraph 11 of resolution 2334 (2016), the Council reaffirmed its determination to examine practical ways and means to secure the full implementation of its relevant resolutions. With this in mind, we would like to make a proposal to further the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016), as follows.

In paragraph 12 of resolution 2334 (2016), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council every three months on the implementation of the provisions of the resolution). This has to date been in the form of an oral report. The standard practice is, however, that the Council receives written reports. While there may sometimes be legitimate reasons for oral reports, they should be reserved for exceptional circumstances. We therefore request the Secretary-General to circulate a written report on the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016) to the Council prior to relevant meetings of the Council.

We kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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